

From: "David J. Lipman" <lipman@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
To: "Patrick O. Brown" <pbrown@cimgm.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: FW: Grass roots and a public library
Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2000 15:21:42 -0400
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Importance: Normal
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Pat,

This is easy to answer. We will have the new system in production by January and certainly working well in the first quarter of 2001. They've been progressing faster than I expected and may well be ready in December rather than January.

That means that if content comes to us in one of the DTD's for which we have converters - so far, Keton (used by most HWP journals), BMC (used by Vitek), and PMC (used by us!). But each new DTD requires us to develop new converters. So if a journal can provide us something in a DTD we already handle, AND the quality of the tagged content is sufficiently good, AND they can deliver it in a consistent way, then we will handle it efficiently.

So a journal must be more than just willing to give us content. It will be impractical for us to develop converters for a very large number of different DTDs (there really aren't a huge number of different DTDs out there actually). But if we have to develop a DTD converter, that will take some time in each case. And if the content isn't relatively clean, we'll not be able to use it.

If we're talking about simply having image PDFs (scanned content), and we are not paying for the scanning, OCR'ing, etc. - then we can surely have the capability of handling that stuff by next summer. But do you think there'll be funding for this effort at that point?

David